

Kathleen Billings  
Stonington

Honorable members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on LD 101. We have had outreach from the fishing community on the proposals to utilize the Gulf of Maine's waters for Off Shore Wind Energy. There appears to be enough concern that we feel we support LD 101 to ban the efforts for the following reasons.

Stonington is Maine's number one lobster port of which we take great pride in and we consistently have for landings over \$60M, and we feel stakeholders such as our fishermen & ancillary shoreside businesses should have more of a say on how this process moves forward and that doesn't seem to be happening with many behind closed doors from outwards appearances. Losing fishing in the Blue Hill peninsular is an economic concern to us and we are asking for a chance to understand the process and the goals further, and the plan in the future that can best serve us all. It is just a shame, it boils down to a bill to ban such endeavors because Maine fishermen are now allowed at the table and other stakeholders. Maine can and should do better at this.

While we feel it is important to find other sources of energy generation in this country to satisfy our power needs and move away from fossil fuels to stop the potential effects of global warming, how we do this is a mitigating factor as well. Subsidizing Aqua Ventus with \$40M with money from the US Dept of Energy does not get us to the true cost of power generation opportunities and the ROI. Whether it is oil, gas, or wind, the goal should be something that truly can provide safe usable power with redundancies, provide the jobs a company can make a true American dollar from and feel good about it. Any other goal is harder to support. Displacing other users, or placing them in areas of concern to fishermen or other users is not the answer either and we are respectfully asking for more understanding and autonomy in our Gulf's waters public resource.

The leasing of the Gulf of Maine waters is always concerning and if all the stakeholders aren't able to be at the table for a public resource. What will our State look like all carved up for Wind Power that Maine will not benefit from, we do not understand why if there is an opportunity for siting Wind, or Power corridors why Maine isn't bargaining more if it is truly an opportunity to offset any damages Wind may provide. Our power bills don't seem to be going down and we pay a tremendous amount for electricity for buildings, water and sewer and other operational necessities. If these wind turbines all over in different areas, why aren't there many examples of cheaper power rates. Maybe we are missing something, but we look forward to facts to support the projects moving forward.

We look forward to seeing what the plan and discussion on pros and cons of consequences there may be for LD 101.

Thank you.

Kathleen Billings, Town Manager  
Town of Stonington  
PO Box 9  
Stonington, Maine 04681  
townmanager@stoningtonmaine.org